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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/466,279	12/17/1999	HAJIME INOUE	SONYJP-3.0-0	9975
530	7590	06/05/2006	EXAMINER	
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK 600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST WESTFIELD, NJ 07090			BROWN, RUEBEN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
				2623

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/466,279	INOUE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Reuben M. Brown	2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/28/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1 & 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Considering claims 1 & 11, applicant recites, ‘and for allocating node identification numbers to said selected devices, for each of said selected devices, said register storing a record of said node identification number allocated to said selected device and maintaining said record regardless of whether said selected device remains connected to said digital interface’. On page 17, lines 12-15 of the specification, it is disclosed, “in step S3, the unique ID numbers of the nodes of the equipment connected to the bus are discriminated (step S5)”, which corresponds with Fig. 8A. However, the specification on page 17, lines 16-20 goes on to specifically disclose that “whether there is equipment having *the ID number* among the registered equipment or not is discriminated (step S6)”, emphasis added. In other words the specification does not explicitly state that this “ID number” is synonymous with the “Node Unique ID” as shown in step S5 in Fig. 8A and thus corresponds with the claimed “node identification number”, and furthermore, in particular applicant uses various terms that are not necessarily interchangeable based on the specific definitions.

It is pointed out that while the term, “Node Unique ID” is used in the Fig. 8A of the drawings, this term was not at all found in the specification. This point is of particular importance, since in the art of bus technology, the terms “Node Unique ID” and “Unique Node ID” are both generally, but are not necessarily interchangeable or synonymous. This difference was noted by applicant in response filed 11/25. In particular, generally the “Node Unique ID” refers to the identification number that includes the vendor code and a chip series code.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-11, 13-18 & 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshino, (EP # 0 852 402 A), in view of Staats, (U.S. Pat # 5,764,930).

Considering amended claim 1, the claimed receiving apparatus for receiving a digital broadcast which comprises a transport stream, such that the video and audio data have been compressed and multiplexed, comprising:

'a decoder for decoding the transport stream' is met by the operation of the IRD 102, which receives video signals, and that includes video processing section 303, Yoshino, col. 4, lines 17-35.

'digital interface for mutually transmitting the decoded transport stream to and from digital signal processing devices' reads on the digital connection interface 304; col. 4, lines 21-25.

‘register for selecting predetermined number of devices from among a plurality of DSP devices connected to the digital interface for allocating node ID numbers to the selected devices, such that the register stores a record of the node ID number allocated to the selected device’ reads on col. 4, lines 38-47 & col. 5, lines 5-21.

As for the additionally claimed feature of the ‘register maintaining the record of the node ID number regardless of whether the selected device remains connected to the digital interface’, Yoshino operates according the standard IEEE 1394 Protocol, wherein upon a bus reset, the node IDs of all of the nodes may be changed. It is noted that a bus reset may be caused by the addition or removal of a device to/from the instant bus and that during a bus reset, all devices are disconnected from the bus, and all or only some of the original devices are re-connected to the bus, along with possibly new device(s). However, Staats which is in the same field of endeavor seeks to overcome the limitations of the IEEE 1394 Protocol, by assigning a node reference ID to each node, along with its IEEE 1394 Protocol address, i.e., node base address, see col. 3, lines 1-20 & col. 5, lines 3-15, which reads on the claimed ‘register for allocating node ID numbers’.

Staats goes on to teach that node reference ID is stored in memory, which reads on the claimed, ‘register for storing a record of the node ID numbers allocated to the selected device’, see col. 5, lines 5, lines 50-61. In particular, Staats discloses that the node reference ID is stored in a linked list of memory locations. Furthermore Staats teaches that after a bus reset, the node unique ID of any remaining node(s) is compared with those values in the device data records, such that if any matches are detected then the instant node unique ID is updated to its current

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node base address. Moreover, the original node reference ID of the device is also re-associated with the node unique ID, based on a pointer, which reads on the claimed feature of, ‘and maintaining the record regardless of whether the selected device remains connected to the digital interface’, see col. 8, lines 1-60.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Yoshino with the feature of maintaining a node reference ID for devices connected to a network, even after a bus reset, for the improvement of allowing bus transactions to be transparent with respect to each device, which Staats discloses is a more efficient manner, col. 1, lines 30-67 thru col. 2, lines 1-25 & col. 9, lines 1-15, since the bus transaction are directed to a node reference ID, (as a destination address) which is a persistent value, instead of the node bus address, which is subject to change at each bus reset.

Considering claims 3 & 13, as for confirming whether a node ID has been allocated, the claimed feature reads on the disclosure of Staats which teaches that upon a bus reset, a bus scan is initiated by the CPU 10, and re-associates node reference IDs stored in memory with their corresponding node unique ID, which are connected to the bus after the reset.

Considering claims 4 & 14, the amended claimed subject matter reads on any or all of the devices being reconnected, after a bus reset and maintaining the same node reference ID, as taught by Staats, col. 7, lines 5-16 & col. 8, lines 11-20.

Considering claims 5 & 15, Yoshino teaches that records stored in the register may be changed by user input, col. 8, lines 10-25, and discusses user selection of a source and/or target device, col. 8, lines 26-55. The claimed feature also reads on the adding or removing a device to/from the bus.

Considering claims 6 & 16, the claimed subject matter reads on the discussion in Staats that the node reference IDs are not discarded upon bus reset, col. 5, lines 4-61.

Considering claims 7 & 17, Yoshino teaches displaying the list of connected devices; see Fig. 5 & Fig. 15; col. 8, lines 10-25 & col. 13, lines 11-30.

Considering claims 8 & 18, see Yoshino, col. 9, lines 5-15; col. 13, lines 11-30; Fig. 8 & Fig. 15, which teaches that disconnected devices have a different appearance from connected devices.

Considering claims 10 & 20, the user in Yoshino is enabled to select a target or source device, col. 13, lines 10-30.

6. Claims 9 & 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshino & Staats as applied to claims 7 & 17 above, and further in view of Horlander, (U.S. Pat # 6,507,953)

Considering claims 9 & 19, Yoshino, which includes recording devices, does not teach providing a warning when a record of a device to provide recording has been changed. Nevertheless, Horlander, which is in the same field of endeavor provides such a feature, col. 4, lines 12-26; col. 7, lines 66-67 & col. 7- col. 8, line 14. Horlander provides resolution when it detects that a VCR is not on the bus. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Yoshino with the teachings of Horlander, at least for the advantage of notifying the user that a pending recording would not be made, since the recording device is not connected.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

A) West Teaches maintaining a record a logical address mapped to the IEEE 1394 Protocol address, which improves the Protocol.

B) Zou Maintains a GUID list of nodes after bus reset.

C) Lawande Teaches assigning node ID number using the IP protocol. This node ID number is saved, even during a bus reset.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
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or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(571) 273-7290 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reuben M. Brown whose telephone number is (571) 272-7290. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-6:00), First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Reuben M. Brown



REUBEN M. BROWN
PATENT EXAMINER